

REMARKS

At the outset, the Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 5, 6, 13-15, 23 and 24 would be allowable if suitably amended in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to this indication, claim 5 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 4; claim 13 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 9 and 12 (except for the modifier "left" in claim 12); and claim 23 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 18 and 22.

Claims 1, 4, 7-9, 12, 18, 22 and 25-29 have been canceled. Claim 2 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 5; each of claims 10, 16 and 17 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 13; and each of claims 19 and 20 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 23.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16-18, 20, 22, 25 and 27-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,230,048 to Selvester et al. In view of the cancellation of claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 12, 18, 22, 25 and 27-29, and the amendment of claims 2, 10, 16, 17 and 20 to depend from allowable claims, the Applicant submits that this ground of rejection is now moot.

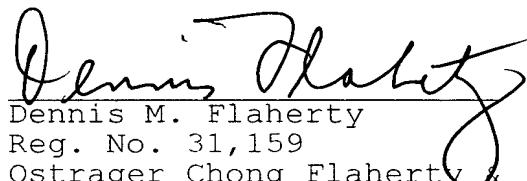
In the Office Action, claims 3, 8, 11, 19, 21 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over Selvester et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,802,008 to Walling. In view of the cancellation of claims 8 and 26, and the dependence of claims 3, 11, 19 and 21 from allowable claims, the Applicant submits that this ground of rejection is also now moot.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13-17, 19-21, 23 and 24 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

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Dennis M. Flaherty